APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
PUNIT, PRAKASH C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2175	

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-26</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-26</u> is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

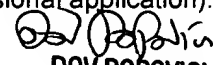8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

DOV POPOVICI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1.   The references cited in the IDS, dated 01-29-2001, Paper No. 3, have been considered.

Specification

2.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "On page 12, line 20,

the meaning of the term DTD is not defined" in the specification. It appears that DTD is defined

as Data Type Definition. Applicant is requested to define what DTD stands for. Correction is

required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3.   Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention.

In claim 1, line 6, the recitation of "determining if a search engine is supported by a

comparison system" is unclear, vague and indefinite in the context of the claim. More

specifically, it is unclear as to how a search engine is supported by a comparison system.

Claims 2-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because claims 2-18 are

dependent from rejected independent claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999

(AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined

was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C.

122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment

by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5.   Claims 1, 20 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Horowitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987).

As to claim 1, Horowitz et al. teaches a method for comparison of documents found on a

network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units and hub processing units,

the method on an information processing unit comprising the steps of:

receiving a user search request on a concept of interest to a user (see Fig. 2; see Abstract;

also see column 9, lines 31-40);

returning search result items based upon the user search request (see column 7, lines 28-

31); and

determining if a search engine is supported by a comparison system (see column 7, lines 3-20; also see column 21, line 66 through column 22, line 7).

As to hub processing units, the recitation "hub processing units" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone.

As to claim 20, Horowitz et al. teaches a computer readable program product for comparison of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units (see Abstract) and hub processing units, the computer readable program product comprising instructions for:

receiving a user selection request to select documents for comparison (see column 10, lines 37-41; where user selecting a topic is same as user selecting a set of documents); and

comparing documents for similarity (see column 7, lines 14-20).

As to claim 23, Horowitz et al. teaches a method for comparison of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units (see Abstract; see column 7, lines 15-20) and hub processing units, the method on a hub processing unit comprising the steps of:

receiving retrieved search result documents in a comparison unit (see column 22, lines 1-5; where "retrieved search result" is read on "documents of the document collection"); and

beginning comparison of the retrieved search result documents (see column 22, lines 5-7).

As to claim 24, Horowitz et al. teaches a method, further comprising the steps of:

computing a similarity value for the retrieved search result documents (see column 22, lines 5-7; where "similarity value" is read on " percentage of matches"); and

forwarding the value to a GUI / Event Manager (see column 22, lines 13-20; where "forwarding the value to a GUI" is read on "providing to the user interface").

As to claim 25, Horowitz et al. teaches a method, wherein generating a graphic display of the similarity value for forwarding to the GUI / Event Manager (see Fig. 3; where "graphic display" is "venn diagram").

As to claim 26, Horowitz et al. teaches a method, wherein the display graphic comprises a Venn Diagram (see Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Horowitz et al.</u>

(U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987) in view of <u>Goiffon et al.</u> (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,312).

As to claim 2, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> teaches a method, wherein if the determining step

determines that the search engine is supported by the comparison system, then:

parsing the search result items by a result set manager (see Fig. 1, element 150; see

column 10, lines 20-29; also see column 7, lines 28-31; where "parsing" is read on

"processing"); and

<u>Horowitz et al.</u> does not teach identifying the search result items and marking them by a

result set manager.

<u>Goiffon et al.</u> teaches identifying the search result items and marking them by a result set

manager (see column 15, lines 49-63; also see column 5, lines 45-51).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include identifying the search

result items and marking them by a result set manager.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> by the teachings of <u>Goiffon et al.</u>, because

having a system capable of marking the search results, enables the user to locate and retrieve

needed documents in a timely manner and also allows the user to identify the best or most

relevant information associated with a user request (see <u>Goiffon et al.</u>, see column 1, lines 46-

50).

8.   Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horowitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987) in view of Goiffon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,312) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Baisley (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,112).

As to claim 3, Horowitz et al. as modified does not teach retrieving knowledge of a structure and content of the search result items by a result set manager from a database.

Baisley teaches retrieving knowledge of a structure and content of the search result items by a result set manager from a database (see column 1, lines 53-57; where "knowledge of a structure" is read on "structure" and "content of search result" is read on "element types used in a document").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. as modified to include retrieving knowledge of a structure and content of the search result items by a result set manager from a database.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. as modified by the teachings of Baisley, because it results in substantial time saving and further it makes it less tedious when large number of XML documents need to be processed (see Baisley, see column 2, lines 41-55).

As to claim 4, Horowitz et al. as modified does not teach passing marked search result items to a Graphical User Interface (GUI) / Event Manager.

Goiffon et al. teaches passing marked search result items to a Graphical User Interface(GUI) / Event Manager (see column 15, lines 41-67; where the process of marking search results can be automated without user intervention as per column 5, lines 49-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. as modified to include passing marked search result items to a Graphical User Interface (GUI) / Event Manager.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. as modified by the teachings of Goiffon et al., because having a system capable of marking the search results, enables the user to locate and retrieve needed documents in a timely manner and also allows the user to identify the best or most relevant information associated with a user request (see Goiffon et al., see column 1, lines 46-50).

As to claim 5, Horowitz et al. as modified does not teach associating an event handler to each search result item by a GUI / Event Manager.

Goiffon et al. teaches associating an event handler to each search result item by a GUI / Event Manager (see Fig. 8; see column 17, lines 5 -16; where "event handler" is read on "function").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include associating an event handler to each search result item by a GUI / Event Manager.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. by the teachings of Goiffon et al., because

having a system capable of associating the search results with a word variant element, enables

the user to locate and retrieve needed documents in a timely manner and also allows the user to

identify the best or most relevant information associated with a user request (see Goiffon et al.,

see column 1, lines 46-50).

9.   Claims 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horowitz et

al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987) in view of Goiffon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,312) and in view

of Baisley (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,112) as applied to claims 2-5 above and further in view of Chu

(U.S. Patent No. 6,427,146).

As to claim 6, Horowitz et al. as modified does not teach displaying an enhanced search

result item set in a display by a GUI / Event Manager.

Chu teaches displaying an enhanced search result item set in a display by a GUI / Event

Manager (see column 4, lines 60-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. as modified to include displaying

an enhanced search result item set in a display by a GUI / Event Manager.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. as modified by the teachings of Chu,

because having a enhancement capability, helps in dealing with inexact and uncertain conditions

in cases such as too many irrelevant documents (see Chu, see column 1, lines 51-57).

As to claim 7, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> as modified does not teach a method, wherein the display comprises a web browser.

<u>Goiffon et al.</u> teaches the display comprises a web browser (see Fig. 10, element 1008; see column 21, lines 33-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include the display comprises a web browser.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> by the teachings of <u>Goiffon et al.</u>, because it enables the user to locate and retrieve needed documents in a timely manner and also allows the user to identify the best or most relevant information associated with a user request (see <u>Goiffon et al.</u>, see column 1, lines 46-50).

As to claim 8, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> as modified teaches initiating a user selection process (see column 3, lines 25-27) and; and Receiving a user selection (see 3, lines 40-44; where "receiving" is read on "responsive to user selection").

<u>Horowitz et al.</u> as modified does not teach notifying an event handler.

<u>Chu</u> teaches initiating notifying an event handler (see column 1, line 66 through column 2, line 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include an event handler with notification feature.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> by the teachings of <u>Chu</u>, because by having an event handler with notification capability, enables easier rule specification and maintenance (see <u>Chu</u>, see column 8, lines 53-55).

As to claim 9, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> does not teach user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection.

<u>Chu</u> teaches user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection (see column 6, lines 32-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> by the teachings of <u>Chu</u>, because by having a drag and drop feature, it enables easier rule specification and maintenance (see <u>Chu</u>, see column 8, lines 53-55).

As to claim 10, Horowitz et al. as modified teaches selected source and target search result items (see column 9, lines 31-62; where "target search results" is read on "document set 152").

Horowitz et al. as modified does not teach receiving a notification in the GUI/Event Handler.

Chu teaches a notification in the GUI/Event Handler (see column 1, line 66 through column 2, line 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include an event handler with notification feature.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. by the teachings of Chu, because by having an event handler with notification capability, enables easier rule specification and maintenance (see Chu, see column 8, lines 53-55).

As to claim 11, Horowitz et al. as modified teaches selected source and target search result items (see column 9, lines 31-62; where "target search results" is read on "document set 152").

Horowitz et al. as modified does not expressly teach a downloader component.

However, Horowitz et al. teaches processing a query by a remote system (see column 10, lines 42-46; "remote system" is read on "system on the internet").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include a downloader component.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al., because by having a downloader component, enables users a useful arrangement of retrieved documents and offers organizational benefits of navigation and querying in a topic hierarchy (see Horowitz et al., column 1, lines 30-32; also see column 2, lines 59-63).

As to claim 12, Horowitz et al. as modified teaches attempting to access and retrieve search result documents represented by the selected source and target search result items (see column 7, lines 28-34; also see column 10, lines 47-61; where "target search results" is read on "document set 152").

Horowitz et al. as modified does not expressly teach a downloader component.

However, Horowitz et al. teaches processing a query by a remote system (see column 10, lines 42-46; "remote system" is read on "system on the internet").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include a downloader component.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al., because by having a downloader

component, enables users a useful arrangement of retrieved documents and offers organizational

benefits of navigation and querying in a topic hierarchy (see Horowitz et al., column 1, lines 30-

32; also see column 2, lines 59-63).

As to claim 13, Horowitz et al. as modified does not expressly teach determining if

retrieval is possible and if not possible then sending an error message to the GUI/Event Handler.

Chu teaches determining if retrieval is possible and if not possible then sending an error

message to the GUI/Event Handler (see column 1, line 66 through column 2, line 5; The event

manager generates a notification according to an action, so it is implicitly stated that the

notification message can be of any form).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include determining if retrieval

is possible and if not possible then sending an error message to the GUI/Event Handler.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. by the teachings of Chu, because by having

an event handler with notification capability, enables easier rule specification and maintenance

(see Chu, see column 8, lines 53-55).

As to claim 14, Horowitz et al. as modified teaches determining if retrieval is possible

and if the retrieval is possible then retrieving search result documents represented by the selected

source and target search result items (see column 20, lines 1-48; "determining" is read on

"evaluation of scores of topics"; The document content organization module decides if there are

any documents in the result based upon the scoring given to each subtopic combination of perspective topic and the low scored documents are eliminated from result group).

Horowitz et al. as modified does not expressly teach a downloader component.

However, Horowitz et al. teaches processing a query by a remote system (see column 10, lines 42-46; "remote system" is read on "system on the internet").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include a downloader component.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al., because by having a downloader component, enables users a useful arrangement of retrieved documents and offers organizational benefits of navigation and querying in a topic hierarchy (see Horowitz et al., column 1, lines 30-32; also see column 2, lines 59-63).

Horowitz et al. as modified does not expressly teach forwarding the retrieved search result documents to a comparison unit.

However, Horowitz et al. as modified in an alternate embodiment teaches a comparison module for comparing documents for similarity (see column 7, lines 9-13; also see column 21, line 66 through column 22, line 7; where "comparison module" is read on "comparison function").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include a comparison module for comparing documents for similarity.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al., because having a comparison module allows the documents to be compared against documents in the documents set, thus offering the benefit of grouping together semantically related set of documents (see Horowitz et al., column 4, lines 56-59).

As to claim 15, Horowitz et al. as modified does not expressly teach receiving retrieved search result documents in a comparison unit; and beginning comparison of the retrieved search result documents.

However, Horowitz et al. as modified in an alternate embodiment teaches a comparison module for comparing documents for similarity (see column 7, lines 9-13; also see column 21, line 66 through column 22, line 7; where "comparison module" is read on "comparison function").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al. to include a comparison module for comparing documents for similarity.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Horowitz et al., because having a comparison module allows the documents to be compared against documents in the documents set, thus offering the benefit of grouping together semantically related set of documents (see Horowitz et al., column 4, lines 56-59).

As to claim 16, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> as modified teaches computing a similarity value for the retrieved search result documents; and forwarding the value to the GUI/Event Manager (see column 17, lines 24-37; where "similarity value" is read on "rating value").

As to claim 17, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> as modified teaches generating a display graphic of the similarity value (see column 11, lines 6-8; where "graphic display of the similarity value" is read on "Venn diagram").

As to claim 18, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> as modified teaches a method, wherein the display graphic comprises a Venn Diagram (see Fig. 3)

10. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Horowitz et al.</u> (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987) in view of <u>Chu</u> (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,146).

As to claim 21, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> does not teach user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection.

<u>Chu</u> teaches user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection (see column 6, lines 32-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> by the teachings of <u>Chu</u>, because by having

a drag and drop feature, it enables easier rule specification and maintenance (see <u>Chu</u>, see

column 8, lines 53-55).

11.   Claims 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

<u>Horowitz et al.</u> (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987).

As to claim 19, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> teaches an information processing system for comparison

of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units

and hub processing units, the information processing system comprising

a selection module (150) for receiving a user selection request to select documents for

comparison (see column 4, lines 9-18) and

<u>Horowitz et al.</u> does not expressly teach a comparison module for comparing documents

for similarity.

However, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> in an alternate embodiment teaches a comparison module for

comparing documents for similarity (see column 7, lines 9-13; also see column 21, line 66

through column 22, line 7; where "comparison module" is read on "comparison function").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include a comparison module

for comparing documents for similarity.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u>, because having a comparison module

allows the documents to be compared against documents in the documents set, thus offering the

benefit of grouping together semantically related set of documents (see <u>Horowitz et al.</u>, column 4, lines 56-59).

As to claim 22, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> does not expressly teach instruction of computing a similarity percentage for the selected documents.

However, <u>Horowitz et al.</u> in an alternate embodiment teaches instruction of computing a similarity percentage for the selected documents (see column 22, lines 5-7; where "similarity percentage" is read on "percentage of matches").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u> to include computing a similarity percentage for the selected documents.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Horowitz et al.</u>, because having a comparison module allows the documents to be compared against documents in the documents set, thus offering the benefit of grouping together sematically related set of documents (see <u>Horowitz et al.</u>, column 4, lines 56-59).

Conclusion

12.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of art with respect to method of information retrieval systems in general:

U.S. Patent No. 6,236,987 to <u>Horowitz et al</u>. – teaches information retrieval systems.

U.S. Patent No. 6,453,312 to <u>Goiffon et al</u>. – teaches drag and drop feature.

U.S. Patent No. 6,502,112 to <u>Baisley</u> – teaches content of search result feature.

13.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prakash Punit whose telephone number is (703) 305-5914. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays – Fridays from 9:45 am to 6:15 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached on (703) 305-3830. The fax numbers of the group is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Prakash Punit
Patent Examiner
Au 2175

March 18, 2003

DOV POPOVICI
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